

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	CRIMINAL DOCKET NO. 09-025
v.	*	SECTION: J (2)
SHAWNTELL MANUEL	*	VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 641
	* * *	

FACTUAL BASIS

Should this matter have gone to trial, the Government would have proved, through the introduction of competent testimony and admissible tangible exhibits, the following facts, beyond a reasonable doubt, to support the allegations in the Bill of Information now pending against the defendant, SHAWNTELL MANUEL. The Defendant has agreed to plead guilty as charged in the Bill of Information alleging that she committed theft of government funds from the United States Small Business Administration, (hereinafter “SBA”) an agency and department of the United States of America, in the amount of \$123,800 in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641.

On August 29, 2005, when Hurricane Katrina made landfall in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the Defendant, SHAWNTELL MANUEL, owned and operated the Big Dog Barber Shop and B&D Barber College located at 1320-1322 Odeon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114 in the Eastern District of Louisiana. MANUEL also owned and operated the Big Dog

Washateria located at 726 4th Street, Westwego, Louisiana, 70064 in the Eastern District of Louisiana.

In October 2005, MANUEL applied to the SBA for a low interest disaster loan on her business properties as a result of alleged Hurricane Katrina damage. The business properties loan was approved for \$123,800. On or about April 5, 2006, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, MANUEL attended an SBA loan closing with representatives and agents of the SBA wherein she executed an SBA disaster business loan for both her Big Dog Barber Shop and B&D Barber College. After the loan closing, SBA disbursed \$5,000 on or about April 21, 2006 and \$5,000 on or about July 1, 2006 on MANUEL'S disaster business loan. An SBA representative would testify that further disbursements of any future disaster loan funds in excess of \$10,000 required MANUEL to submit a copy of a valid building permit or written evidence from a proper authority that a building permit was not required. Additionally, SBA required MANUEL to submit a copy of a written construction contract covering the cost of repairs and/or construction work as well as paid receipts and/or invoices or canceled checks for work performed satisfactorily to SBA standards.

MANUEL submitted to the SBA two different fictitious certifications of a Building Permit Requirement for her Big Dog Washateria from the City of Westwego which she forged the signature of the Building Inspector. The Building Inspector was interviewed by SBA agents and shown copies of the Building Permit certifications and he stated that his signature was forged on both documents. Defendant MANUEL was interviewed by SBA agents and admitted that she forged the Building Inspectors signature on both Building Permit certifications which were submitted to the SBA.

MANUEL also admitted to submitting or causing to be submitted to the SBA the following false receipts: 1) a receipt for \$20,000 for antique barber chairs dated October 19, 2005; 2) a receipt for \$10,000 for counters, mirrors and cabinets dated October 27, 2005 and 3) a receipt for \$40,000 for used washers, dryers and a blow heater. MANUEL told investigators that she did not purchase these items and that the receipts were fraudulent.

MANUEL told investigators that she submitted or caused to be submitted two forged contracts from Stevenson Renovations and Home Repairs; one for repairs and renovations to the Washateria for \$10,000 and the other for repairs to the barber shop/barber college for \$20,000. Manuel admitted that the documents were fraudulent and she admitted to signing the contractor's name to the forged documents. The contractor was interviewed by investigators and stated that he did not do any work for MANUEL or on any of her properties and that his signature was forged on the contracts.

Both the Government and the defendant, SHAWNTELL MANUEL, do hereby stipulate and agree that the above facts set forth a sufficient factual basis for the crime to which the defendant is pleading guilty and that the government would have proven these facts beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

JULIA K. EVANS (D.C. BAR # 435461)
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

DEFENDANT SHAWNTELL MANUEL (DATE)

GEORGE CHANEY, ESQUIRE (DATE)
FEDERAL DEFENDER,
COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT